I.D. Act

2052. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry, by a notification dated 3rd July, 1998, has authorised the State Governments as appropriate Government u/s 39 of the I.D. Act in respect of 129 CPSUs;

(b) whether the Government of West Bengal under Act XXXIII of 1989 has made some amendments in the I.D. Act including Section 25(O) in its application to West Bengal;

(c) whether CPSUs in West Bengal complied with the amendments of the I.D. Act while seeking permission for closure;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether his Ministry, while granting permission, has taken into consideration the State amendments; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir. The powers have been delegated to the State Governments subject to the condition that the Central Govt. shall exercise all the powers under the said Act and rules made thereunder, as and when it considers it necessary to do so.

(b) to (f) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Smart card by EPFO

2053. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 580 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th July, 2001 and state:

(a) how much amount has been earmarked for EPFO for updating the organisation; and

(b) by when all the offices of EPFO are likely to be computerised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The expenditure on modernisation programme is to be met by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation from their own resources.

The first phase of the modernisation programme involves setting up of pilot centers in six locations covering all four zones to be made operational in a time span of 24 months.

After stabilisation of six pilot centers the re-designed system is proposed to be replicated all over the country in a phased manner.

Amendments In I.D. and Contract Labour Acts

2054. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact amendments in the Industrial Disputes Act and Contract Labour Act to do away with the requirement to obtain prior Governmental Permission for effecting lay-off in industrial establishment employing 1000 workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the views of labour unions have been obtained on the issue;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) Changes in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 are proposed based on the requirements of the social partners and in consonance with economic reforms. Although, it is not always possible to arrive at a consensus among social partners on all such changes nonetheless the process of consultation through social dialogue is encouraged by the Government at various levels. Necessary changes in the I.D. Act, 1947 and Contract Labour Act, 1970 are proposed keeping in view the need to promote industrial investment and generate higher employment opportunities. The changes in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the Contract Labour Act, 1970 will, therefore, have to be viewed in the context of